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XIV.—On Mr. Carter's objections to Eozoon

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pyriform, somewhat compressed and subacuminate at top; opening behind curved, tubular. Growth lax, straggling, irregular.

Hab. Swain's Bay.

It has much of the habit and general aspect of *Crisidia geniculata*, but differs in the number of cells in the internode, the very sparse punctuation of the surface, and in the form of the oocœcia.

Fam. Tubuliporidæ.

Genus TUBULIPORA, Lam.

Tubulipora stellata, n. sp.?

Zoarium irregularly stellate; zooœcia diverging from the centre in all directions.

Hab. Swain's Bay, Kerguelen's Island (*Eaton*).

Fam. Discoporellidæ.

Genus DISCOPORELLA, Bk.

Discoporella infundibuliformis, n. sp.

Zoarium stipitate infundibuliform: zooœcia arising from the interior of the funnel; mouth expanded, with five or six acute teeth.

Hab. Swain's Bay, Kerguelen's Island (*Eaton*).

Discoporella canaliculata, n. sp.

Zoarium circular, bordered, slightly convex; tubes very irregularly uniserial, with a raised canalicular fillet on one side; interspaces cancellous.

Hab. Swain's Bay, Kerguelen's Island (*Eaton*).

XIV.—On *Mr. Carter's* Objections to Eozoon.

By Principal J. W. DAWSON, LL.D., F.R.S.

WITH reference to these, as stated in the December number of the 'Annals,' I beg to make an explanation as to matters of fact. The woodcut which Mr. Carter criticises was introduced into my little book in connexion with the *history of the discovery of Eozoon*, and as an illustration from Dr. Carpenter of the tubulated wall first recognized by him. There are in the book several other illustrations of these structures, though of course not nearly so many as my collections could furnish. The appearance of this cut as an illustration of my note in 'Nature' was an accident for which I am not respon-

sible. I sent with the note a tracing of the structures in question from a specimen of my own ; but, instead of engraving this, the Editor borrowed, as I suppose, the cut which had appeared in Dr. Carpenter's paper, and which certainly represented structures of the same character.

As to the relations of the canal-system to the tubuli, I can only say that, after studying a very large number of slices and other preparations of *Eozoon*, and comparing these with *Nummulina*, *Calcarina*, and other more modern forms, many of them prepared and mounted with my own hands, I cannot discover any greater diversity of structure than that which might be expected in a gigantic *Stromatoporoid* form of so great antiquity, and separated by so vast an interval of time from any thing with which we can compare it.

In any case *Eozoon* exists, and, projecting in *Stromatopora*-like masses from the weathered outcrops of our Laurentian limestones, so resembles certain well-known fossils that the geologist cannot deny it attention, however its presence may clash with any preconceived notions ; and I have yet to learn that the laborious collection of such specimens, the preparation and study of hundreds of slices, and the comparison of them with the forms, recent and fossil, which they may be supposed to resemble, can be fairly stigmatized as "wild speculation." It is certainly a speculation which makes more demands on time, muscle, and eyesight than some others that can be mentioned ; and I only regret that I am unable adequately to present to naturalists the materials, almost a museum in themselves, that have accumulated on my hands in the study of this ancient fossil, and which have testified more and more not only to its importance and wide distribution, but to its organic nature. I am not a specialist in the study of the Foraminifera any further than the Postpliocene species of Canada and their successors in the Gulf of St. Lawrence are concerned. The study of *Eozoon* was forced on me by circumstances and by its evident geological significance, and has been pursued as specimens presented themselves and as time permitted, but, I can honestly affirm, without any desire to support any preconceived hypothesis or to further any current speculation. On the one hand, I can plainly perceive the use which may be made of it to favour theories of development in which I have no faith ; on the other, I can equally see its inconsistency with the exaggerated antiquity claimed by many for the human period in geology ; but the investigation and statement of facts must be independent of all consideration of such consequences.

M^cGill College, Montreal,
Dec. 24, 1875.